

**BOX FILING DATE
EXPEDITED HANDLING REQUESTED**

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 1718-194P

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: ZHOU, Xia-Xiong et al.

SERIAL NO.: NEW

GROUP: Unassigned

FILED: November 16, 2001

EXAMINER: Unassigned

FOR: PRODRUGS

PETITION FOR THE ACCORDANCE OF A FILING DATE
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.6

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

November 30, 2001

Sir:

This is a Petition to be accorded a filing date of November 16, 2001 for a new patent application which was properly deposited with the United States Postal Service (USPS) by Express Mail on November 16, 2001, but which was not delivered because of the emergency temporary change in the USPTO Express Mail address.

Applicant's representative deposited a patent application and related correspondence in an Express Mail envelope at the USPS Express Mail "Drop Box" located at 3101 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana, California 92799 on Friday, November 16, 2001 at approximately 6:30 p.m. (Pacific Time). The "Express Mail" mailing label number was EL501842289US and the package was properly addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231. A USPS employee stationed at the "Drop Box" accepted the correspondence. Applicant's representative, therefore, fully expected to receive a filing date of



November 16, 2001, in accordance with the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.10(a).

On November 19, 2001, Applicant's representative received a notice from the USPS indicating that the above-identified Express Mail package was not delivered to the addressee because express mail service was temporarily suspended at the Washington, DC post office. Applicant subsequently received the actual package from the USPS on November 20, 2001. An inspection of the mailing label indicates that the USPS received the package on November 16, 2001. The USPS had also apparently attempted to deliver the package to the Washington, DC post office on November 16th, November 17th and November 19th. The time of the delivery attempts were also noted on the mailing label. The notations on the label clearly indicate that the package was deposited in an "Express Mail" drop box on November 16th.

Applicant's representative obtained a printout of the USPS' Product Tracking System to demonstrate that the package was deposited on November 16, 2001. As can be seen from the enclosed Product Tracking System Record, the package was "returned to sender" on November 16, 2001. The evidence therefore indicates that the package was in the control of the USPS as of November 16, 2001. Applicant's representative therefore requests that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of November 16, 2001.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein are based upon knowledge are true, and that all statements based upon information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

If there are any outstanding matters regarding this Petition, please contact the undersigned at (714) 708-8555 in the Southern California area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: Kalpana Reddy
Kalpana Reddy
Registration No. 46,138

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(714) 708-8555

LRS/KR

Attachments

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington

D.C. 20231 on: November 30, 2001
(Date of deposit)

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Fori m. Tillman
(Signature)
November 30, 2001
(Date of Signature)